GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2197
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001
DECLINE IN FOREIGN TOURISTS
A.K. PREMAJAM

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is lagging behind in attracting foreign tourists and even smaller countries are much ahead of us;

(b) if so, the figures of tourist inflow during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to attract domestic/foreign tourists?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE: (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) and (b): During the year 2000, India received less number of foreign tourists as compared to the countries like Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.Foreign tourist inflow to the country through the major Ports of entry during the last three years is as follows:

Port	1998	1999	2000
Delhi	806001	799099	842204
Mumbai	677400	696299	748584
Chennai	251566	276380	297751
Kolkata	127537	128336	132711
Others	496125	581814	619907
Total	2358629	2481928	2641157

(c): Various steps taken by the Government to boost tourism and attract foreign tourists/domestic tourists include development and improvement of tourist facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries through overseas tourist offices, strengthening institutions of human resources development, use of information technology and encouraging private investment in tourism sector including hotels. Efforts have also been made to send appropriate signals to countries all over the world that India is a safe destination. A reorientation in marketing efforts is also being made by focussing on markets in South East Asia and emphasising the significance of domestic tourism.